

**Property Name: La Plata Railroad Station**  
**Survey No.: CH-351 (PACS C115)**

Property Address	North side of Charles Street, La Plata, Charles County
Owner Name/Address	Conrail
	Year Built 1873

The La Plata Railroad Station was previously surveyed by the Charles County Planning Department; the date of the survey is unknown. Since the time of the previous survey, there have been no changes to the property.

The La Plata Railroad Station, constructed in 1873, was previously surveyed by the Charles County Planning Department. The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as the last example of a late nineteenth century railroad station commonly built in Charles County. Although the structure is vacant, it remains in good condition, retains its original materials, and it has not been significantly altered. The setting of the station has not changed; it is located on its original site. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

The National Register boundaries of the La Plata Railroad Station are located within the right-of-way for the Conrail Railroad (Charles County Tax Map 113) and are as follows. Beginning at a point starting on the north edge of Charles Street at intersection with Maple Street and proceeding north along Maple Street to a point 30 meters (98.4 feet) north of the Railroad Station. The boundary turns east to intersect with the adjacent tax parcel (Charles County Tax Map 113, Parcel 62), then turns south along the property line of the adjacent tax parcel to the north edge of Charles Street. The boundary then travels west along Charles Street back to the beginning. This 0.09 hectare (0.23 acre) parcel is bounded on the north by the Conrail right-of-way, on the south by Charles Street, on the west by Maple Avenue, and on the east by an adjacent tax parcel. The boundary encompasses the railroad station and is historically associated with the station.

MHT CONCURRENCE:  
Eligibility X recommended \_\_\_\_\_ not recommended  
Criteria    A    B X C    D      Considerations    A    B    C    D    E    F    G    None  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suzanne Pickens      07/21/1997  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services      Date

B. Kuntz      7/21/97  
Reviewer, NR program      Date

**Preparer:**  
***P.A.C. Spero & Company***  
**September 1996**

Year Built 1873

[illegible]

**Preparer:**  
***P.A.C. Spero & Company***  
**September 1996**

U.S. 301 South Corridor

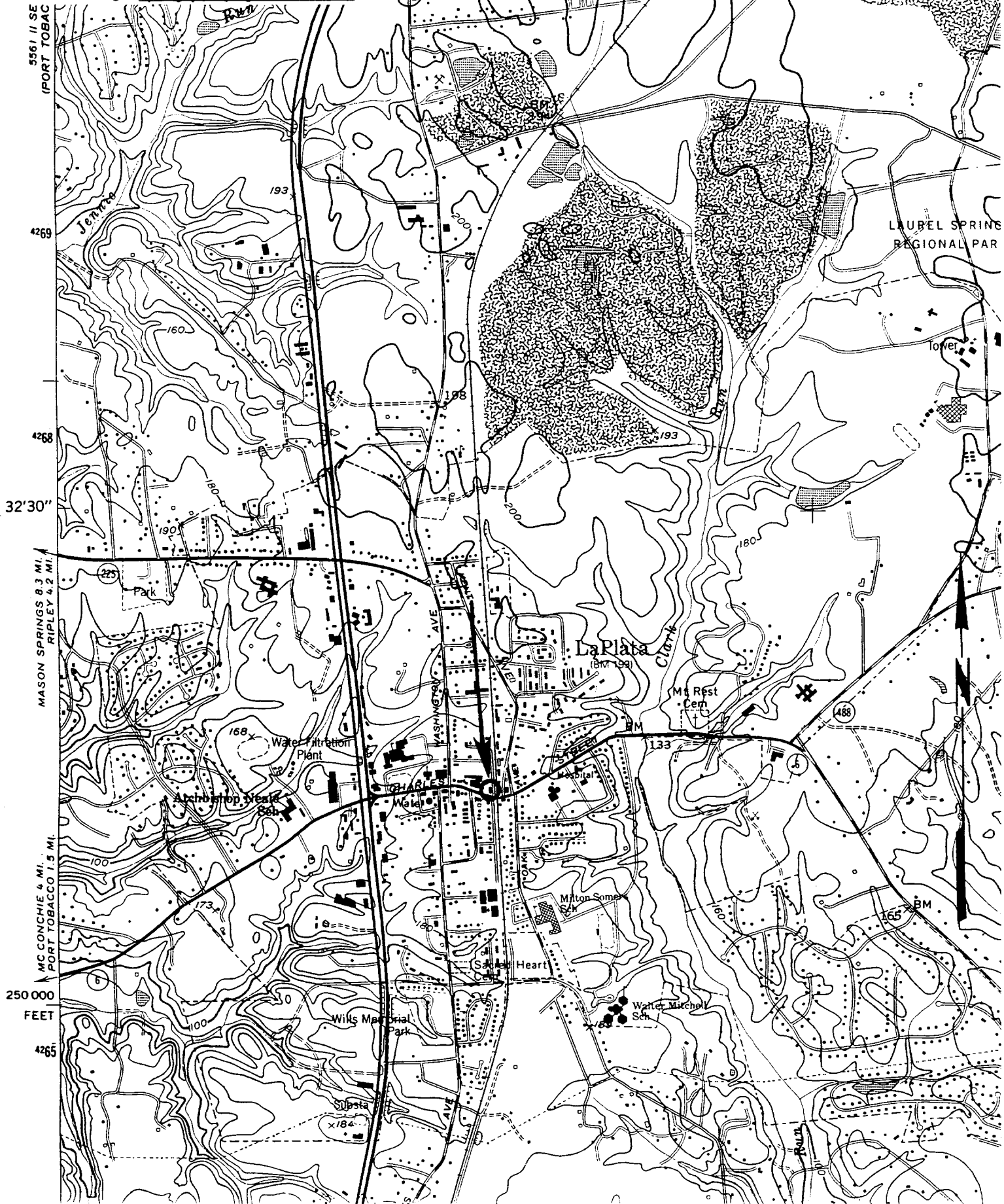
Transportation Study

Survey # C115 CH-351

Property Name LA PLATA RAILROAD STATION

Town/County LA PLATA / CHARLES CO.

Quadrangle La Plata



CH-351



CH-351



CHAS-351  
LA PLATA RAILROAD STATION  
La Plata  
Private

1873

In 1873, when the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad was first introduced to the area, small stations such as this were built at the crossings of major roads and at other points of convenience to farm and population centers. The La Plata station, built before La Plata became the county seat and, in fact, the major force that resulted in the move of the county seat from Port Tobacco, is fairly typical of these buildings. It is now, however, the last remaining one of its kind in the county. In addition, it is believed to be the oldest "public use" building in La Plata.

The La Plata station initially served as a combined station, telegraph office, store, and later a post office, but has been abandoned in recent years and now stands vacant.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-351

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MSIT # 0903515919

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

LA PLATA RAILROAD STATION

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Charles Street (MD 6)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

\_\_\_ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER ABD.

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Penn-Central Railroad

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1873, the La Plata Railroad Station is a plain, one-story, cross-shaped structure, purely functional in design and appearance. The main body of the building extends north to south on the west side of the adjacent tracks, and has centered projecting sections on both side walls, dividing the building into three sections on each side. Each of the two "recessed" outer sections are three bays in width with a transomed door occupying the center bay of each. The middle projecting section of the west wall does not have any openings, while that of the east side has a single window in each of its three sides. There is also a single window at each end of the building. The shallow gable roof extends out on both sides to the outside wall of the projecting sections, creating a roofed area over each of the four "recessed" spaces. The roof has exposed rafters extending out to a cantilevered "plate" supported by chamfered angle braces secured to the main walls of the building. Each of these four areas evidently once had wood platforms that have since been removed. The exterior of the building is sheathed with German (novelty) siding. The windows are of 2-over-2 pane sash and all of the openings are framed by plain board trim. The interior contains two main rooms, with a smaller chamber in each of the projecting side sections. Both the walls and ceilings are sheathed with narrow board wainscoting.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CH-351

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

In 1873, when the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad was first introduced to the area, small stations such as this were built at the crossings of major roads and at other points of convenience to farm and population centers. The La Plata station, built before La Plata became the county seat and, in fact, the major force that resulted in the move of the county seat from Port Tobacco, is fairly typical of these buildings. It is now, however, the last remaining one of its kind in the county. In addition, it is believed to be the oldest "public use" building in La Plata.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CHAS-351

LA PLATA STATION; View From  
S.W. J. R. Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-351

LA PLATA STATION; View From  
West. J.R.Rivoire, 1978



P.95

P.44

CH 351

65%

CHAS-351

LA PLATA R R STATION

View From SE JRRivoire, 1978